

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GEORGE 01849 01 OF 02 121910Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02 EUR-12 IGA-02 /094 W

-----130332 121924Z /41

O R 121755Z AUG 77 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5089

AMEMBASSY CGRACAS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USMIUIION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 1849

CARACAS PASS TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW) GY

SUBJECT: INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF AMBASSAUOR YOUNG'S VISIT TO GUYANA

REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 1722; (B) GEORGETOWN 1753; (C) GEORGETOWN 1775

BEGIN SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR YOUNG WAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY
RECEIVED IN GUYANA BY GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE.

WHEREVER HE WENT, PEOPLE REACHED OUT TO TOUCH HIM, SEEK
HIS AUTOGRAPH OR AT A MINIMUM SMILE. THE WARMTH OF
HIS RESPONSES WAS APPRECIATED. WHILE THE FULL
IMPACT OF THE VISIT REMAINS TO BE

ASSESSED, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT IN
WHICH THE US AND GUYANESE GOVERNMENTS CONDUCT THEIR
RELATIONS HAS BEEN FURTHER IMPROVED BY THE VISIT. THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GEORGE 01849 01 OF 02 121910Z

INDEPTH DISCUSSIONS GUYANESE LEADERS AND OFFICIALS
HAD WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY
HAVE GIVEN THEM A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CARTER
ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES AND INTENTIONS. AMBASSADOR
YOUNG'S VISIT CAPPED OFF PRECIOUS US INITIATIVES,
SUCH AS THE HABIB VISIT AND TODMAN'S STATEMENT, AND HAS
LEFT NO DOUBT IN GUYANESE MINDS THAT THE US HAS

HEIGHTENED ITS INTEREST AND HAS A NEW APPROACH TOWARD THE CARIBBEAN. VIEWED FROM THE EMBASSY, THE VISIT WAS A SPECTATULAR SUCCESS. END SUMMARY.

1. SCHEDULE FOLLOWED BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG WAS THAT OUTLINED REF. A AND AMENDED REFS. B AND C, EXCEPT THAT LATE EVENING MEETINGS ON AUGUST 9 WITH PRESIDENT ARTHUR CHUNG AND ZIMBABWIAN LEADER JOSHUA NKOMO WERE ADDED. OVER 600 PEOPLE JAMMED INTO THE UMAE

YANA FOR THE RECEPTION AND DANCE HOSTED BY THE CHARGE. GUESTS WERE FROM ALL SECTORS OF GUYANEIE SOCIETY, INCLUDING OPPOSITION LEADERS CHEDDI JAGAN AND JANET JAGAN. THE EVENT WAS MARKED BY NUMEROUS DEMONSTRATIONS OF FRIENDLY EMOTIONS TOWARD THE AMBASSADOR AND THE UNITED STATES. AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S GREETINGS TO THE CROWD WERE GREETED BY STRONG APPLAUSE. THEY WERE BROADCAST TO THE NATION AND EXCERPTS PUBLISHED IN PRESS (REPORTED BY USINFO).

2. ALL OFFICIALS IN AMB. YOUNG'S GROUP ATTENDED THE INITIAL ONE-HOUR SESSION WITH FONMIN WILLS, AFTER WHICH THEY REMAINED WITH WILLS, AMBASSADOR JACKSON AND OTHER OQWOP FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS FOR ADDITIONAL 2-HOUR DISCUSSION OF MULTILATERAL ISSUES, NORTH-SOUTH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GEORGE 01849 01 OF 02 121910Z

PERSPECTIVES, GUYANA'S SOCIALISM AND US-GOG RELATIONS, WHILE AMB YOUNG, VALDEZ AND CHARGE TOURED UNDP AND AID PROJECTS AND MELANIE DAMISHANA COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY. ENTIRE GROUP ATTENDED FIRST HALF OF THE SESSION WITH PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM AND KEY CABINET MEMBERS, AFTER WHICH BURNHAM DREW THE AMBASSADOR ASIDE FOR 35 MINUTES OF TALKS ALONE. MRS. BURNHAM ATTENDED THE LUNCH FOR AMB. YOUNG HOSTED BY WILLS. WILLS HEADED DELEGATIONS WHICH MET THE AMBASSADOR AT AIRPORT AND UKCOMPANIED HIM TO AIRPORT FOR DEPARTURE.

3. USINFO CABLES REPORT PRESS COVERAGE OF VISIT AND FULL TEXT OF AMB. YOUNG'S PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE CABLED TO WASHINGTON WHEN TRANSCRIPTION FROM TAPE IS COMPLETED.

4. FONMIN WILLS, IN PUBLIC STATEMENT AT UMANA YANA RECEPTION (BROADCAST NATION-WIDE AND REPORTED IN PRESS) SAID THAT THE BRIDGES BUILT BETWEEN THE US AND GUYANA SINCE PRESIDENT CARTER TOOK OFFICE "ARE FIRM BRIDGES... BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT, MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, AND BASED ON AN APPRECIATION THAT IN THIS WORLD OF

DIVERSITY BETWEEN RICH AND POOR, AND THE NEED FOR
DETENTE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH, WE ALL HAVE A CONTRIBU-
TION TO MAKE." HE SAID AMBASSADOR YOUNG WAS "ONE OF
THE CHIEF PEOPLE WHO COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THIS
DETENTE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH", AND THAT YOUNG'S
BOLDNESS AND WILLINGNESS TO SPEAK FRANKLY WOULD AUGUR
WELL FOR US RELATIONS WITH THE CARIBBEAN.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GEORGE 01849 02 OF 02 121915Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05
ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02 EUR-12 IGA-02 /094 W
-----130478 121925Z /44

O R 121755Z AUG 77 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5090
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 1849

CARACAS PASS TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG

5. WILLS DESCRIBED GUYANA'S NON-ALIGNMENT, SAYING THAT
IT WOULD NOT TAKE INSTRUCTIONS FROM MOSCOW, CUBA,
WASHINGTON OR ANYWHERE, BUT THE REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION
HAD MISUNDERSTOOD THIS AND HAD TENDED TO REGARD
EVERYTHING IN TERMS OF POWER AND STRATEGIC MILITARY
SIGNIFICANCE. HE SAID "THEY MISUNDERSTOOD BECAUSE WE
WERE SMALL AND OUR NUMBERS WERE FEW...OUR DECISIONS
WERE BASED ON WHAT WE STRONGLY FELT--A FIERCE PRIDE
OF NATIONALISM, A FIERCE DESIRE TO BRING GUYANA INTO
THE MODERN WORLD. I AM HAPPY TO REPORT TO YOU THAT
THAT KIND OF TRAGIC MISUNDERSTANDING DOES NOT OBTAIN
WITH THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION."

6. FONMIN WILLS TELEPHONED ME DURING THE EVENING OF

AUGUST 10 SAYING PRIMIN BURNHAM HAD CALLED HIM TO
DISCUSS THE VISIT. WILLS SAID THE PM DESCRIBED THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GEORGE 01849 02 OF 02 121915Z

VISIT AS "SUPERBLY SUCCESSFUL." BURNHAM HAD BEEN
RECEIVING REPORTS OF THE TIDE OF FRIENDLINESS TOWARD
THE US WHICH HAD DOMINATED THE CROWDS AT THE UMANA YANA
AND AT EACH OF THE AMBASSADOR'S PUBLIC APPEARANCES.
PEOPLE WERE CALLING THE PRIME MINISTER TO EXPRESS
THEIR CONGRATUALTIONS AND RELIEF THAT HE HAD PATCHED
UP HIS RELATIONS WITH THE AMERICANS. ACCORDING TO
WILLS, BURNHAM HAD EXPRESSED SURPRISE OVER THIS AND HAD
SAID IT HAD INTERNAL POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH BURNHAM MAY HAVE BEEN SURPRISED
OVER THE EXPRESSIONS OF FRIENDSHIP TOWARD THE US
THAT WERE EVOKED BY THE VISIT OF AMB. YOUNG, THE EMBASSY
IS NOT SURPRISED. THE VISIT OF UNDER SECRETARY HABIB
AND AMBASSADOR TODMAN'S STATEMENT IN JUNE HAD STRONG
POSITIVE IMPACT ON GUYANESE OFFICIAL AND POPULAR
OPINION AS DID THE NEWS OF A RESUMPTION OF AID PROJECTS.
HOWEVER, IT TOOK THE IMPACT OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT
AND PERSONALITY TO EVOKE STRONG POSITIVE PUBLIC OFFICIAL
COMMENTS AND THE OVERT POPULAR MANIFESTATION OF
ENTHUSIASM FOR AMB. YOUNG AND THE US. SOME OF THIS
WAS DUE TO HIS REPUTATION AND CHARISMA AND WILL FADE
BUT NEVERTHELESS US-GOG RELATIONS WITHOUT DOUBT HAVE
BEEN MOVED TO A HIGHER LEVEL THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE
THE 1960'S. THAT THE US IS NOW INTERSTED IN THE
CARIBBEAN AND HAS A NEW POLICY TOWARD THE AREA IS CLEAR,
AND WELCOMED BY GUYANESE. EXPECTATIONS FOR AN EXPANDED
AID PROGRAM HAVE BEEN STIMULATED, ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR
YOUNG MADE CLEAR PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY THAT THE MAJOR
SOURCE OF CAPITAL TRANSFERS WOULD HAVE TO BE PRIVATE
SOURCES. THE CLIMATE FOR FURTHER PROGRESS IN
IMPROVING RELATIONS WAS NOTABLY IMPROVED AS A
RESULT OF THE VISIT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GEORGE 01849 02 OF 02 121915Z

BLACKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRAVEL REPORTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GEORGE01849
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770291-0540
Format: TEL
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770868/aaaacfd.tel
Line Count: 218
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3658755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 GEORGETOWN 1722, 77 GEORGETOWN 1753, 77 GEORGETOWN 1775
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1620861
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF AMBASSAUOR YOUNG'S VISIT TO GUYANA
TAGS: OVIP, US, GY, (YOUNG, ANDREW)
To: STATE CARACAS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3658755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009